# Church Unit May Investigate FBI, CIA Probes of JFK Death

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) said yesterday that his Senate intelligence committee may hold public hearings on the caliber of the FBI's and CIA's investigations for the Warren Commission.

He told reporters that he would not hesitate to urge reopening of the Warren Commission inquiry into President Kennedy's assassination in 1963 if the evidence seems to warrant it, but he said it would be premature to make such a recommendation now.

The committee, Church said, also will investigate a Washington Post report that a senior official in the Nixon White House once told Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt Jr. to have columnist Jack Anderson assassinated.

Quoting reliable sources, the Post article said that Hunt planned to obtain an undetectable poison from a CIA physician but the assassination order, which came six or seven months before the mid-1972 Watergate break-in, was withdrawn after several days of preparation.

The Senate committee had already been investigating the surveillance the CIA had placed on Anerson in response to newspaper columns based on leaks of information that the Nixon administration considered especially sensitive. Now, Church said, committee investigators will ask government agencies for whatever files they may have on the columnist.

The committe met in closed session yesterday, first to hear from Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) and then to begin hearings on the National Security Agency.

Kennedy said later that he was still satisfied with the conclusions of the Warren Commission, including its finding that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in killing John F. Kennedy.

Sen. Kennedy testified, in effect, as a character witness for both of his assassinated brothers, President Kennedy and the late Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, in connection with the Church committee's investigation of CIA involvement in foreign assassination schemes.

Although much of the unsuccessful plotting took place during the Kennedy administration, Edward Kennedy said he was "absolutely satisfied to a moral certainty that neither President Kennedy nor Robert Kennedy would have tolerated a policy of assassination."

"I think it was completely alien to their own value of life," Kennedy said. Alluding to the contentions of Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) that the CIA would never have engaged in such scheming without the approval of higher authorities, Kennedy said he was willing to live with the facts but "not necessarily with individual speculation by certain members of the committee . . ."

The committee will begin public hearings this morning on the Nixon administration's controversial "Huston Plan" for increased domestic surveillance, including illegal bugging and burglaries. The panel will continue its secret investigation of the code-breaking NSA in the afternoon.

## *Plot 'Pure Gossip, Talk,' Source Tells Anderson*

Jack Anderson, in Helena, Mont., to make a speech yesterday, said the Post article was the first he had heard of such an assassination plot.

After the article appeared, Anderson said, he phoned a "source who had been at the White House at that time. He said he had heard some talk, some conversation about it. But it was pure gossip, pure talk."

In another development, Sens. Gary Hart (D-Colo.) and Richard Schweiker (R-Pa.) were named as an informal subcommittee with an initial three-member staff to investigate the work of the CIA and the FBI during the Warren Commission's inquiry into the 1963 assassination of President Kennedy.